

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 1st, 2025, 8:00 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Raoul Moore, Daniel Bullerdick, Joyce Grimble, Jordan Gillenwater, Brandy Daggett, Adam Beck, Kenny Cain, George Reger, Tricia Herr, Dave Stanley, Sam Lovold, Lea Hickle

Daniel opened the meeting at 8:05 am

Partnership reports

Adam- Been processing ECAP applications, nearly 85% have been signed up. Almost 6 million dollars have been pushed out in the last month or so in this county.

Kenny- Kenny thanks Dave for his time here in the county and NRCS. He calls upon the board to lean on Dave in the future for whomever comes in to his position.

Dave- Dave took the DRP 2.0 which puts him on administrative leave until November where he will still be paid until his November retirement date. 56 employees across the state have taken this option. It is unknown if some of these positions will be replaced or not. Brandy will be acting for Dave in Montgomery and Fountain until someone is found. Dave will still be around and focus on his farming business but is still willing to be a resource and offer advice.

George Reger- George will be here to support as Dave retires and Brandy is acting in his stead.

Brandy- Brandy's acting letter goes out to May 16th which at that point may be someone more permanent in place. Around 2500 people across the nation have left the NRCS. The W4L agreement with NRCS was terminated. The contribution agreement is still good until December 9th.

Tricia- Master Gardener plant sale is on Saturday. Purdue Day of Giving was yesterday. 4H Fair will be 11th through 16th of July. Enrollment in 4H is now up to one day before the fair unless you have livestock then the deadline to sign up is May 15th. Tricia will be teaching a kids agronomy day in June at Purdue Acre.

Sam- Native plant sale goes live on our website on Monday. Tabling at the Master Gardeners Plant Show this Saturday. Have hosted 3 weed wrangles this month at 3 properties around the county. Growers held a site visit refresher meeting this month. Have had 2 soil health site visits in recent weeks and a couple of invasive surveys. Helped Wabash College yesterday with their native plant demonstration plot. Helping with Purdue Extension Ag Days next Thursday and Friday. Field Days planning will ramp up soon. Working on pinning down presenters still. Working with RITA tech Hanna to put together a forestry field day.

Lea- Someone we work closely with has reached out about potentially having an intern for the summer. A paid internship would require a job description of sorts and feedback from the county

compensation study on what that would be. An unpaid internship would only require a background check. The interested person has not reached out yet so we will see what happens.

Consent agenda Raoul moved to approve, Daniel 2nd. Consent agenda approved to file as presented.

Old Business

Mandatory training for board members- The board members will need to sign the video trainings forms and stick around to watch the sexual harassment video at the conclusion of this meeting.

319 Grant FY26 Application- Lea turned in our NOI to reapply for this a couple weeks ago. Sara Peel came to the office and met with us, and we went over the feedback we received from IDEM. We now understand a little better how to make corrections to our application for resubmitting it. The committee will meet and discuss the budget in our application which seems to be the main sticking point. Lea will send out an invitation to find time for the Grant Committee to meet. The deadline for submission is September 2nd. The earlier we submit the better.

North Montgomery Prairie- Zach Cain has ordered the seed from New Ross Grain. Coal Creek Pheasants Forever is planning to do the planting along with Mike Sowers. The North Schoolboard is interested in planting old ball diamonds at the elementary schools. The mix is an old-style CRP low maintenance mix with heavy rates of grass seeding and less forbs. If we receive an email from Jess with an official request for the funding for the seeds.

New Business

Hay Ride and Hang- SNW Regional summit meeting that we have been planning for the first evening of the Field Days. It will be on August 21st with a panel discussion with a theme of where we are going and how we are going to get there. Currently the plan is to have a buffet style meal followed by a panel discussion.

Sponsorship of the 2025 4-H Awards- Raoul moved to give \$25 gift card to 4H for the Soil and Water 4H award. Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am

Minutes approved 6/5, 2025

 Raoul Choore
 A. Kloos
 Jordan Miller

Submitted by Lea Dick